

What is claimed is:

1. A data processing system for implementing program controlled management of physician-patient interactions, comprising:

a) a first workstation program adapted for accepting biographical and/or insurance information about a patient; *PA*

b) a second workstation program adapted for accepting information about at least one of: patient complaints, patient symptoms, medication, and responses to triage questions relating to one or more reasons for the patient's visit, so as to enable the system to formulate one or more specific questions directed to a medical problem of the patient; *7A-7B*

c) a third workstation program adapted for accepting vital sign data including at least one of: temperature, blood pressure, pulse, weight; further adapted for accepting at least one of: one or more reasons why the patient is seeking medical treatment, responses to medical questions, whether the visit is for an urgent matter, and data relating to potentially emergent problems; *COL. 23*

d) a fourth workstation program adapted for accepting information obtained from the patient during a medical check up, including information indicative of patient thoughts on his or her complaint and potential diagnosis of the complaint, the fourth workstation module also adapted to provide a physician with optional information about patient history from previous visits;

10 e) a database server for providing access to the first, second, third and fourth workstation programs so as to form a local area network used to store medical information related to a plurality of patients, the database server adapted to capture and manage at least one of: costs of medical care, utilization of one or more physicians, laboratory data, indicia of disease, referral data, surgery data and pathology data;

58 f) a communication server adapted for connection to at least one of: the Internet, a hospital computer network, and an insurance company computer network, to access information accepted by any of the first, second, third and fourth workstation programs.

2. The data processing system of claim 1 wherein each of the first, second, third and fourth workstation programs are executed on one or more workstations, each workstation including a display terminal with a touch sensitive screen to display questions and information, a mouse and a keyboard to accept information, a microphone to record information, and one or more speakers or a headset.

3. The data processing system of claim 1 wherein the database server includes a mechanism to connect with any of a plurality of computer-based patient record systems, thereby ensuring completeness of data and avoiding redundant entry of data across multiple system.

4. The data processing system of claim 1 further including a mechanism by which a physician may create and refine patient assessment processes and/or modify clinical algorithms and guidelines.

5. The data processing system of claim 1 wherein the second workstation program includes a system response analyzer subroutine that operates as a background software process so as to track inconsistent information entries that are indicative of a failure on part of the patient to understand the nature and operation of the system, and/or a patient uninterested in participating in the process of entering information into the system, by checking the patient's responses after the second workstation program accepts the information, so as to determine if this information is consistent with previously entered information.

6. The data processing system of claim 5 wherein the system response analyzer, after determining one or more patient responses to be inconsistent, generates an output indicative of such inconsistency, and runs an instructional prompting program informing the patient of the inconsistency and/or how to avoid such inconsistency.

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